

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 L-03 OES-06 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /070 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1461

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, EINV, EFIS, PFOR, PE

SUBJECT: STAR-KIST - TANTALEAN'S TRIAL MAY BE NEARING END

REF: LIMA 6801

1. IN CONVERSATION ON AUGUST 18, LOCAL STAR-KIST REPRESENTATIVE LELAND LINKS TOLD ACTING CHIEF ECON SECTION THAT LAWYER FOR FORMER FISHERIES MINISTER TANTALEAN HAD INFORMED STAR-KIST'S LAWYER THAT TANTALEAN'S TRIAL WAS TO BE COMPLETED AND SOME PRONOUNCEMENT MADE BY PRESIDING JUDGE BY AUGUST 28. LINKS SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW ALMOST ALL TESTIMONY GIVEN HAD BEEN SUPPORTIVE OF TANTALEAN. THUS, LINKS WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT TANTALEAN WOULD BE CLEARED OF WRONG-DOING IN STAR-KIST AFFAIR AND THAT, CONSEQUENTLY, ENTIRE STAR-KIST MATTER WOULD BE DROPPED.

2. LINKS ALSO MENTIONED THAT HIS ASSESSMENT HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED BY A SECOND-HAND REPORT THAT TANTALEAN'S WIFE HAD SAID IN AN AUTHORITATIVE MANNER THAT HER HUSBAND WOULD BE CLEARED BY END OF MONTH.

3. BEYOND SUMMARY OF AMBASSADOR GARCIA BEDOY'S TESTIMONY, WHICH BACKS TANTALEAN'S VERSION OF EVENTS, EMBASSY HAS NO FURTHER EVIDENCE OR INFORMATION TO

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CORROBORATE LINKS' STATEMENTS. GOVERNMENT-

CONTROLLED PRESS HAS NOT CARRIED ANY STORIES OF TRIAL
SINCE EARLY JULY. WE HOPE THAT THIS LOW-KEY PRESS
COVERAGE MAY PRESAGE QUIET COURT ANNOUNCEMENT OF
TANTALEAN'S ACQUITTAL.
SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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